California Field Crop Review

Frequency: Monthly
Released: December 20, 2005
(USPS 598-270)
VOL. 26 *NO.* 12
USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, California Field Office

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. COTTON PRODUCTION FORECASTS

California's 2005 **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 1.10 million bales as of December 1, 4 percent below the November forecast and down 39 percent from last year. This is based on 433 thousand acres for harvest, with an average yield of 1,219 pounds per acre. The harvest of the Upland cotton harvest was winding down, while some growers continued with a second picking. **American-Pima** cotton production is forecast at 600 thousand bales, 12 percent below last year's crop. The 226 thousand acres for harvest are 6 percent above last year. Harvest progressed throughout the month without any major weather interruptions.

The U.S. **all cotton** production is forecast at a record high 23.7 million 480-pound bales, 2 percent above both the November forecast and last year. The yield is expected to average 832 pounds per acre, up 19 pounds from last month, but down 23 pounds from 2004. If realized, production will surpass the record set last year, while the yield would be the second largest on record.

Upland cotton harvested area, at 13.4 million acres, is unchanged from the November forecast, but up 5 percent from last year. **American-Pima** harvested area, at 265 thousand acres, is also unchanged from November, but 7 percent above the 2004 harvested area.

FIELD CROP ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

Crop	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	2004	2005 Forecast	Unit	2004	2005 Forecast	Unit	2004	2005 Forecast
	1,000 Acres						1,000	
CALIFORNIA								
Wheat, Winter 1/	320.0	290.0	Tons	2.55	2.16	Tons	816.0	626.4
Wheat, Durum 1/	100.0	69.0	Tons	2.70	2.85	Tons	270.0	196.7
Oats 1/	25.0	20.0	Tons	1.36	1.20	Tons	34.0	24.0
Barley 1/	75.0	60.0	Tons	1.44	1.51	Tons	108.0	90.7
Corn for Grain 1/	150.0	155.0	Tons	4.90	4.34	Tons	735.0	672.7
Rice, All 1/	590.0	508.0	Cwt.	86.00	73.00	Cwt.	50,759.0	37,084.0
Long 1/	7.0	9.0	Cwt.	73.00	3/	Cwt.	511.0	3/
Medium 1/	535.0	447.0	Cwt.	88.00	3/	Cwt.	47,080.0	3/
Short 1/ 2/	48.0	52.0	Cwt.	66.00	3/	Cwt.	3,168.0	3/
Cotton, Upland 4/	557.0	433.0	Lbs.	1,543.00	1,219.00	Bales	1,790.0	1,100.0
Cotton, American-Pima 4/	214.0	226.0	Lbs.	1,532.00	1,274.00	Bales	683.0	600.0
Sugar Beets 1/ 5/	49.1	45.3	Tons	39.30	38.30	Tons	1,930.0	1,735.0
Beans, Dry, All 6/	57.0	64.0	Cwt.	20.20	20.00	Cwt.	1,152.0	1,281.0
Hay, All 1/	1,550.0	1,540.0	Tons	5.81	5.65	Tons	9,000.0	8,704.0
Alfalfa Hay 1/	1,050.0	1,020.0	Tons	7.00	6.80	Tons	7,350.0	6,936.0
Other Hay 1/	500.0	520.0	Tons	3.30	3.40	Tons	1,650.0	1,768.0
UNITED STATES								
Wheat, Winter 1/	34,462.0	33,680.0	Tons	1.31	1.33	Tons	44,983.0	44,813.1
Wheat, Durum 1/	2,363.0	2,691.0	Tons	1.14	1.12	Tons	2,696.8	3,001.4
Oats 1/	1,787.0	1,823.0	Tons	1.04	1.01	Tons	1,851.1	1,840.0
Barley 1/	4,021.0	3,276.0	Tons	1.67	1.56	Tons	6,713.8	5,092.7
Corn for Grain 1/	73,632.0	74,333.0	Tons	4.49	4.16	Tons	330,602.1	308,898.9
Rice, All 1/	3,325.0	3,343.0	Cwt.	69.42	66.03	Cwt.	230,818.0	220,731.0
Long 1/ 7/	2,571.0	2,727.0	Cwt.	65.69	3/	Cwt.	168,901.0	173,171.0
Medium 1/ 7/	705.0	563.0	Cwt.	83.25	3/	Cwt.	58,689.0	44,136.0
Short 1/ 2/ 7/	49.0	53.0	Cwt.	65.88	3/	Cwt.	3,228.0	3,424.0
Cotton, Upland 4/	12,809.0	13,408.0	Lbs.	843.00	824.00	Bales	22,505.1	23,029.0
Cotton, American-Pima 4/	248.0	265.0	Lbs.	1,443.00	1,221.00	Bales	745.6	674.0
Sugar Beets 1/ 5/	1,306.9	1,239.3	Tons	22.90	22.00	Tons	29,956.0	27,254.0
Beans, Dry, All 6/	1,219.3	1,570.7	Cwt.	14.59	17.31	Cwt.	17,788.0	27,184.0
Hay, All 1/	61,916.0	61,723.0	Tons	2.55	2.48	Tons	157,774.0	152,871.0
Alfalfa Hay 1/	21,707.0	22,118.0	Tons	3.47	3.43	Tons	75,383.0	75,940.0
Other Hay 1/	40,209.0	39,605.0	Tons	2.05	1.94	Tons	82,391.0	76,931.0

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from previous month.
2/ Sweet rice production included with short grain.
3/ To be released January 12, 2006.
4/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480-pound net weight bales.
5/ Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California. In California, related to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for over-wintered beets in central and southern California.
6/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.
7/ Rice class production forecasts for 2005 are based on a five-year average of class percentages.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - NOVEMBER 2005

Prices received by California farmers at mid-November were below the previous month for dry edible beans, all potatoes, all hay, hay other than alfalfa, Upland cotton lint and cottonseed, while alfalfa hay remained unchanged. Mid-November prices for wheat were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There was insufficient data to establish a mid-November price for oats and barley. Prices were above a year earlier for all potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, all types of hay, Upland cotton lint, and cottonseed. Dry edible beans remained unchanged from the November 2004 level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 113 based on 1990-92=100, increased two points (1.8 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up one point (1.0 percent), while the Livestock Index decreased one point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, oranges, potatoes, cucumbers, and cattle. Lower prices were received for lettuce, dairy, hogs, broilers, and tomatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, cotton, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and sweet corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down two points (1.7 percent) from November 2004. The Food Commodities index, at 119, increased three points (2.6 percent) from last month, but decreased three points (2.5 percent) from November 2004.

The November All Crops Index is 104, up 1.0 percent from October, but 7.1 percent below November 2004. From October, index increases for potatoes & dry beans and oil-bearing commodities more than offset the index decreases for vegetables, feed grains & hay, and food grains.

The November Food Grains Index, at 111, is 0.9 percent below the previous month and 2.6 percent below a year ago. The November all wheat price, at $112.00 per ton, is down $2.33 from October and down $3.33 from November 2004.

The November Feed Grains & Hay Index is 84, down 2.3 percent from last month and 9.7 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at $63.93 per ton, is down $1.07 from last month and $9.28 below November 2004. The all hay price, at $91.70 per ton, is $6.00 below October, but up $3.00 from last November. Grain sorghum, at $2.81 per cwt., is 18 cents below October and 25 cents below November last year.

The November Cotton Index, at 80, is unchanged from October, but 13 percent above last year. The November price, at 48.2 cents per pound, is down 0.3 cents from the previous month, but 5.0 cents above last November.

The November Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 104, is 8.3 percent above both last month and November 2004. The all potato price, at $6.09 per cwt., is up 55 cents from October and $1.07 from last November. The all dry bean price, at $18.90 per cwt., is up 10 cents from the previous month, but $7.00 below November 2004.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		November 2004	October 2005	Nov. 15, 2005	November 2004	October 2005	Nov. 15, 2005
		Dollars					
Corn 2/	Ton	---	---	---	73.21	65.00	63.93
Wheat 2/	Ton	3/	3/	3/	115.33	114.33	112.00
Oats 2/	Ton	---	41.00	41.00	94.38	99.38	91.25
Barley 2/	Ton	3/	3/	4/	102.08	100.42	103.75
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.06	2.99	2.81
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	7.36	6.94	7.34
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	36.80	37.80	36.80	25.90	18.80	18.90
All Potatoes 5/	Cwt.	9.40	15.50	12.30	5.02	5.54	6.09
Winter	Cwt.	16.40	---	17.30	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	15.50	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	7.85	---	9.65	---	---	---
Hay, All Baled 2/	Ton	117.00	132.00	131.00	88.70	97.70	91.70
Alfalfa Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	122.00	139.00	139.00	95.20	106.00	97.50
Other Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	87.00	95.00	88.00	73.50	76.50	76.30
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	0.561	0.606	0.571	0.432	0.485	0.482
Cottonseed	Ton	144.00	169.00	149.00	104.00	89.40	92.60

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.
2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.
3/ Not published due to possible disclosure.
4/ Insufficient data to establish a price.
5/ Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92=100		
	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	733	706 a/	715	115	111 a/	113
All Crops	552	508 a/	515	112	103 a/	104
Food Grains	362	357 a/	354	114	112 a/	111
Feed Grains and Hay	331	306 a/	299	93	86 a/	84
Cotton	365	410 a/	407	71	80 a/	80
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	486	484 a/	524	96	96 a/	104
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates b/	1,799	1,920 a/	1,909	135	144 a/	143
Parity Ratio c/	41	37	37	85	77	79

a/ Revised.
b/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.
c/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

California's 2005 dry bean production is estimated at 1.28 million cwt., 11 percent above last year. Harvested acreage totaled 64.0 thousand, 12 percent above last year. The overall yield was 2,000 pounds per acre, down 1 percent from last year. **Large lima** production, at 310 thousand cwt., was 1 percent above the 2004 crop. **Baby lima** production, estimated at 368 thousand cwt., was 38 percent above last year's crop. **Light red kidney** production, at 40.0 thousand cwt., was 7 percent below last year. The **dark red kidney** output of 21.0 thousand cwt., was 5 percent above the 2004 crop. The **blackeye** crop of 191 thousand cwt., was down 25 percent from last year. Production of **garbanzos** totaled 219 thousand cwt., 90 percent above last year.

U.S. production of dry edible beans is estimated at 27.2 million cwt. for 2005, 53 percent above last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.57 million acres, 3 percent above the last forecast and up 29 percent from 2004. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,731 pounds per acre, 272 pounds above a year ago. Production is above a year ago in 16 of the 17 producing States. Most notable production increases from last year are Minnesota up 111 percent, Colorado 91 percent higher, and North Dakota increasing 82 percent. Production is up from a year ago for large lima, baby lima, navy, great northern, pinto, light red kidney, dark red kidney, pink, small red, blackeye, and small and large chickpeas. Production decreased from last year for small white, cranberry, and black beans.

DRY BEAN ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, BY VARIETY, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES a/

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres		Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
CALIFORNIA						
Large Lima	14.6	14.9	21.00	20.80	307.0	310.0
Baby Lima	10.9	16.0	24.50	23.00	267.0	368.0
Blackeye	10.3	8.8	24.90	21.70	256.0	191.0
Light Red Kidney	4.0	3.4	10.80	11.80	43.0	40.0
Dark Red Kidney	1.1	1.2	18.20	17.50	20.0	21.0
Pink	0.3	0.3	13.30	11.40	4.0	3.0
Garbanzo	5.8	9.5	19.80	23.10	115.0	219.0
Black Turtle Soup	0.7	0.4	14.30	17.50	10.0	7.0
Pinto	b/	b/	b/	b/	b/	b/
Cranberry	1.6	1.1	14.40	12.00	23.0	13.0
Other (Misc.)	7.7	8.4	13.90	13.00	107.0	109.0
BEANS, ALL DRY	57.0	64.0	20.20	20.00	1,152.0	1,281.0
UNITED STATES						
Large Lima	14.6	14.9	21.00	20.80	307.0	310.0
Baby Lima	10.9	16.0	24.50	23.00	267.0	368.0
Blackeye	25.3	21.4	15.18	18.69	384.0	400.0
Light Red Kidney	52.5	71.3	15.35	16.04	806.0	1,144.0
Dark Red Kidney	46.6	52.3	14.64	17.55	682.0	918.0
Pink	28.3	35.8	18.41	18.49	521.0	662.0
Garbanzo	43.4	88.0	13.66	12.48	593.0	1,098.0
Small White	2.8	2.2	23.57	21.36	66.0	47.0
Navy	162.5	221.5	13.18	17.84	2,142.0	3,951.0
Great Northern	46.8	70.2	20.32	22.22	951.0	1,560.0
Cranberry	12.2	11.3	14.75	14.34	180.0	162.0
Small Red	31.9	49.5	18.84	18.24	601.0	903.0
Black	127.6	107.1	14.66	16.78	1,870.0	1,797.0
Pinto	573.7	762.7	13.62	17.19	7,814.0	13,110.0
Other (Misc.)	40.2	46.5	15.02	16.22	604.0	754.0
BEANS, ALL DRY	1,219.3	1,570.7	14.59	17.31	17,788.0	27,184.0

a/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.
b/ Included in "Other (Misc.)" for California.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION

California's fall potato production is forecast at 3.24 million cwt., down 11 percent from 2004. Cool weather in late spring and early summer led to smaller potatoes and lower yields

U.S. production of fall potatoes for 2005 is forecast at 383 million cwt., virtually unchanged from last month, but down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Indiana was dropped from the program in 2005. Area harvested, at 952.3 thousand acres, is up less than 1 percent from November, but 7 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at a record high 402 cwt. per acre, unchanged from last month, but 1 cwt. above the record set last year.

Western States production is forecast at 268 million cwt., up less than 1 percent from the November forecast, but down 5 percent from last year. Acreage harvested, at 600 thousand acres, decreased 7 percent from last year, but the average yield of 446 cwt. per acre is up 8 cwt. from 2004. Growing conditions throughout the Western States were generally favorable. Idaho's potato production, forecast at 117 million cwt., is 11 percent below last year and the lowest since 1989. Planted and harvested acres in Idaho are the lowest since 1986. Washington's yield is forecast at 620 cwt., 30 cwt. above last year. If realized this will be a record high yield, exceeding the record established in 2000 by 20 cwt. Production, at 95.5 million cwt., is 2 percent above last year. Oregon's production is forecast to be up 11 percent due to the record high yield of 594 cwt. per acre, 51 cwt. above the record high established in 2000.

FALL POTATO ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Acres Harvested			Yield			Production		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres			Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	8.3	7.6	7.2	425	480	450	3,528	3,648	3,240
Idaho	358.0	353.0	323.0	344	374	362	123,180	131,970	116,975
- 10 SW Co.	25.0	25.0	21.0	465	490	465	11,625	12,250	9,765
- Other Co.	333.0	328.0	302.0	335	365	355	111,555	119,720	107,210
Oregon	42.6	37.0	37.1	493	534	594	20,991	19,775	22,023
- Malheur Co.	5.8	5.2	3.8	415	470	450	2,407	2,444	1,710
- Other Co.	36.8	31.8	33.3	505	545	610	18,584	17,331	20,313
Washington	162.0	159.0	154.0	575	590	620	93,150	93,810	95,480
UNITED STATES TOTAL	1,248.6	1,166.9	1,084.8	367	391	389	457,814	456,041	421,639

FALL POTATO STOCKS

California's fall potato stocks were estimated at 1.60 million cwt. as of December 1, 2005, down 47 percent from last year. The amount in storage on December 1 represents 49 percent of production, compared with 82 percent a year ago.

The 13 major potato States held 253 million cwt. of potatoes in storage December 1, 2005, down 6 percent from last year and 5 percent below December 1, 2003 for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 68 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, 1 percent above last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 12 percent round white, 2 percent long whites (Shepody), and 83 percent russets, with fewer long whites and more round whites and russets than a year ago for comparable States.

Disappearance of 120 million cwt. from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 8 percent from last year and 10 percent below two years ago for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt., is down 9 percent from last year and 6 percent below the same date in 2003 for comparable States.

Processors have used 65.9 million cwt. of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 7 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon's total processing decreased 7 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon's total processing dropped 6 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.2 million cwt. of the total processing and is down 16 percent from last year and 14 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 176 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on December 1, down 5 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 10 percent from last year, Colorado's potato sheds stored 9 percent less than in 2004, stocks in Montana are 6 percent below last season, and California's stocks decreased 47 percent from last year. Oregon's potato stocks are up 12 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 4 percent more than last season.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1 a/

State	Crop of 2004			Crop of 2005		
	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2004	Percent of Prod.	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 2005	Percent of Prod.
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	3,648	3,000	82	3,240	1,600	49
Idaho	131,970	93,500	71	116,975	84,000	72
Oregon	19,775	17,000	86	22,023	19,000	86
Washington	93,810	50,000	53	95,480	52,000	54
TOTAL 15 STATES	403,587	271,100	67	373,696	253,400	68

a/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.